

**LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL**

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2024**

**Present:**

**Chairman:** Cllr S.Cockerell

**Members:** Cllr G. Stammers, Cllr P. May, Cllr S. Larcombe, Cllr J. Trevena, Cllr A. Wood

**Other members:** V. Elcoate, G. Barr

**Officers:** K. Newman (administrative and community engagement assistant), A. Turner (operations manager), J. Wright (town clerk)

**Guests:** R. Thomas (River Lim Action Group), G. Roberts (River Lim Action Group)

**24/35/ENV Public Forum**

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

**24/36/ENV Apologies**

Cllr C. Aldridge – prior commitment  
J. Breeze – appointment  
Cllr G. Turner

**24/37/ENV Minutes**

It was noted J. Breeze should be recorded as being a guest at the meeting.

It was noted G. Barr was not present at the meeting and any references to him needed to be amended to G. Roberts, from the River Lim Action Group. G. Barr also did not speak in the public forum.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2024, with the above amendments, were **ADOPTED.**

**24/38/ENV Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr P. May declared a non-pecuniary interest on agenda item 7, Update Report, because he was a community energy champion and in items involved the Dorset Climate Action Network as he was a member, and Turn Lyme Green as he was also a member and sat on the steering committee.

**24/39/ENV Dispensations**

There were none.

**24/40/ENV Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 October 2024**

**Carbon Literacy Organisation Accreditation**

A member asked why the Carbon Literacy training was cancelled at the last minute and asked if it would be rescheduled. It was noted the managing director or equivalent had to be trained for the council to remain accredited.

The town clerk said the person providing the training was not the appropriate person to deliver it to the town council and officers would provide the training in future. He said the deputy town clerk was currently accredited and the operations manager and support services manager would be trained.

**Rainwater harvesting**

A member asked if it was the intention to use the rainwater runoff from the pavilion for the community garden.

The operations manager confirmed this was the plan.

**Electric Supply to Gardens Lighting**

The operations manager said the quote for a metered supply had not yet been received.

**2025/26 Budget Proposals**

The town clerk said a ride-on mower had been included in the list of possible objectives for 2025/26, and this would run on biodiesel. He added that security had been put in place to secure the biodiesel tank, including CCTV.

**Appointment to Repairs Café Steering Group**

Cllr S. Larcombe said a meeting had taken place on 18 November 2024 to update on the project, with another meeting planned for 22 November 2024, when opening dates would be looked at, as well as finances. He said the repairs café aimed to open in early-2025, if there were enough volunteers and equipment.

**24/41/ENV Update Report**

Cllr P. May asked if the town council could update the website to state that the community energy champions were still offering free thermal camera property surveys this winter.

**24/42/ENV To receive the minutes of the Bathing Water Quality meeting held on 1 October 2024**

It was noted Dorset Council had budget constraints and although they had committed to sorting the surface outlet drains near the Cobb and some other drains, they may no longer be able to provide the funding for this.

It was noted the drains next to the food kiosks on the seafront were currently blocked and this would be raised at the next bathing water quality meeting. Proposed by Cllr May and seconded by Cllr Trevena, the minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2024 were **RECEIVED**.

**24/43/ENV To receive a report from the River Lim Action Group**

The chairman invited G. Roberts and R. Thomas from the River Lim Action Group (RLAG) to present their report.

G. Roberts said the group would continue with their river monitoring, using their 30 monitoring volunteers, to help keep South West Water's attention on the issues. They were also hoping to start merging more informed local groups that had set up similar initiatives so they would have an informed database to pinpoint where the pollution was coming from.

Funding sources were discussed and G. Roberts said the only funding they received was from the town council, with all the work carried out voluntarily.

The town clerk said term grants over five years would be available from 2025-26, which the group may wish to apply for.

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe, members agreed to **RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL** to approve the funding request from the River Lim Action Group for the sum of £7,908.32 for works in 2024/25.

**24/44/ENV Budget Report**

The town clerk said £2,100 of the funding previously awarded to RLAG would not be spent in the current financial year.

It was noted 2024-25 was the final year of the £25k budget to carry out the council's climate action plan and further discussion about how the council would carry out its plan would be discussed at the Strategy and Finance Committee on 27 November 2024 when objectives were agreed.

The town clerk said the climate action plan was out-of-date and required updating. It was agreed this would be brought to the next meeting for discussion.

**24/45/ENV Consultation on the Reform of the Bathing Water Regulations 2013**

Proposed by Cllr P. May and seconded by Cllr S. Larcombe members agreed to **RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL** that the response to the Consultation on the Reform of the Bathing Water Regulations 2013 be delegated to three members and officers so that the response would be in on time, taking into account the input of the River Lim Action Group.

Cllr P. May, Cllr S. Cockerell and G. Barr agreed to work with officers on the response.

V. Elcoate said she understood the classifications by the Environment Agency would be out next week, which was important for Church Cliff Beach.

*The meeting closed at 7.54pm.*